

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

ORDER NO. 87 - 157
NPDES NO. CA0006165

AN ORDER AMENDING ORDER NO. 85-44,
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR:

STAUFFER CHEMICAL COMPANY
MARTINEZ PLANT
MARTINEZ, CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, finds that:

1. On April 30, 1985, the Regional Board adopted Order No. 85-44 (NPDES No. CA0006165) prescribing waste discharge requirements for Stauffer Chemical Company, Martinez plant (hereinafter referred to as the discharger).
2. On April 16, 1986, the Regional Board adopted Order No. 86-24 amending waste discharge requirements for Stauffer Chemical Company, Martinez plant.
3. On June 17, 1987, the Regional Board adopted Order No. 87-079 amending waste discharge requirements for the discharger.
4. The discharger manufactures sulfuric acid. The acid is produced by regenerating spent refinery sludge acids, and by burning sulfur. Waste water flow is dependent on production rate, water content of the acid sludge, and stormwater runoff.
5. Waste 001 consists of wastewater from sulfuric acid production, including process waste, blowdown from cooling towers, caustic scrubbers and other ancillary equipment, plant washdown, pretreated leachate from cinder and slag deposits on the plant site, and stormwater runoff from the plant site. The leachate is pretreated by precipitation, flocculation, settling and neutralization, before being combined with the untreated process and other plant wastes and storm water runoff. The combined waste is treated by precipitation, flocculation, settling and neutralization and is discharged into Peyton Slough at a point near the foot of Moccoco Road. Peyton Slough is tributary to Carquinez Strait, a navigable water of the United States. The discharge is not continuous. The current average monthly dry-weather flow rate excluding leachate is approximately 0.063 million gallons per day.
6. Order No. 85-44, provides, in part as follows:
"Prohibition A. 1.

Discharge of waste 001 which contains constituents of concern, and is

discharged at a location that does not receive a minimum of 10:1 dilution, is prohibited."

and,

"Provision E. 2.

The discharger shall comply with Discharge prohibition A. 1. by July 1, 1987. The discharger shall submit by July 15, 1985 a proposal with time schedule for achieving compliance. Compliance may be achieved by demonstrating to the satisfaction of the Board that an exception to the Basin Plan Prohibition should be granted. The discharge shall submit to the Board by July 1, 1986 the proposed demonstration of Prohibition exception, or a demonstration that resources have been committed towards compliance, such as a Draft Environmental Impact Report. The discharger shall submit by July 15th and January 15th annually, reports demonstrating progress towards compliance."

7. Order No. 86-24 amended Provision E. 2. to extend until December 1, 1986, the deadline for submittal of the proposed demonstration of Prohibition exception or demonstration that resources have been committed towards compliance.
8. Order No. 87-079 amended Provision E. 2. to extend until January 22, 1988, the deadline for submittal of the proposed demonstration of Prohibition exception or demonstration that resources have been committed towards compliance.
9. The discharger submitted a proposed demonstration of Prohibition exception dated December 1, 1986, entitled "Equivalent Protection Study for Stauffer Chemical Company, Martinez Sulfuric Acid Plant". The discharger is requesting an exception on the basis that the wastewater treatment plant provides an equivalent level of protection to Peyton Slough as would be provided if the discharge received a minimum initial dilution of 10 to 1.
10. The "Equivalent Protection Study for Stauffer Chemical Company, Martinez Sulfuric Acid Plant", indicates that the discharge of Stauffer wastewater to Peyton Slough has no impact on the aquatic species studied. This finding applies only to the current status of the discharger's wastewater; this wastewater may change substantially in the near future.
11. The discharger also submitted a report entitled "Efficiency Review Report" on the reliability of the wastewater treatment plant. Since the discharger is applying for an exception to the shallow water discharge prohibition, it is necessary to demonstrate that the treatment plant is reliable. A discharge to shallow or enclosed waters would have a much greater impact in the event of an upset of the wastewater treatment system.
12. The "Efficiency Review Report" indicates the wastewater treatment plant to be reasonably reliable, and that there is adequate storage capacity always available to contain wastes in the event of an upset of the wastewater treatment system. This finding applies only to the

current status of the discharger's wastewater treatment system; the loads to this system may change substantially in the near future.

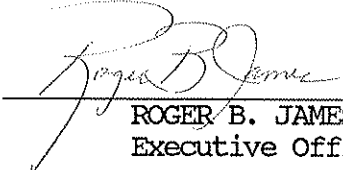
13. The Board adopted a revised Water Quality Plan for the San Francisco Bay Basin on December 17, 1986, and this order implements the water quality objectives stated in that plan.
14. This Order amends an NPDES permit, adoption of which is exempt from the provisions of Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 21110 of Division 13) of the Public Resources Code (CEQA) pursuant to Section 13389 of the California Water Code.
15. The Board has notified the discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to amend waste discharge requirements for the discharge, and has provided them with an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.
16. The Board in a public meeting heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that this Board's Order No. 86-24 and 87-079 are rescinded and Order No. 85-44 is amended as follows:

1. Rescind Prohibition A.1.
2. Rescind Provision E.2.
3. Add Provision E.2 to read as follows:

The Board hereby grants an exception to the Basin Plan Prohibition of discharge that does not receive minimum initial dilution of 10 to 1 based on Findings No. 10. and 12. of this Order.

I, Roger B. James, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on December 16, 1987.



ROGER B. JAMES
Executive Officer